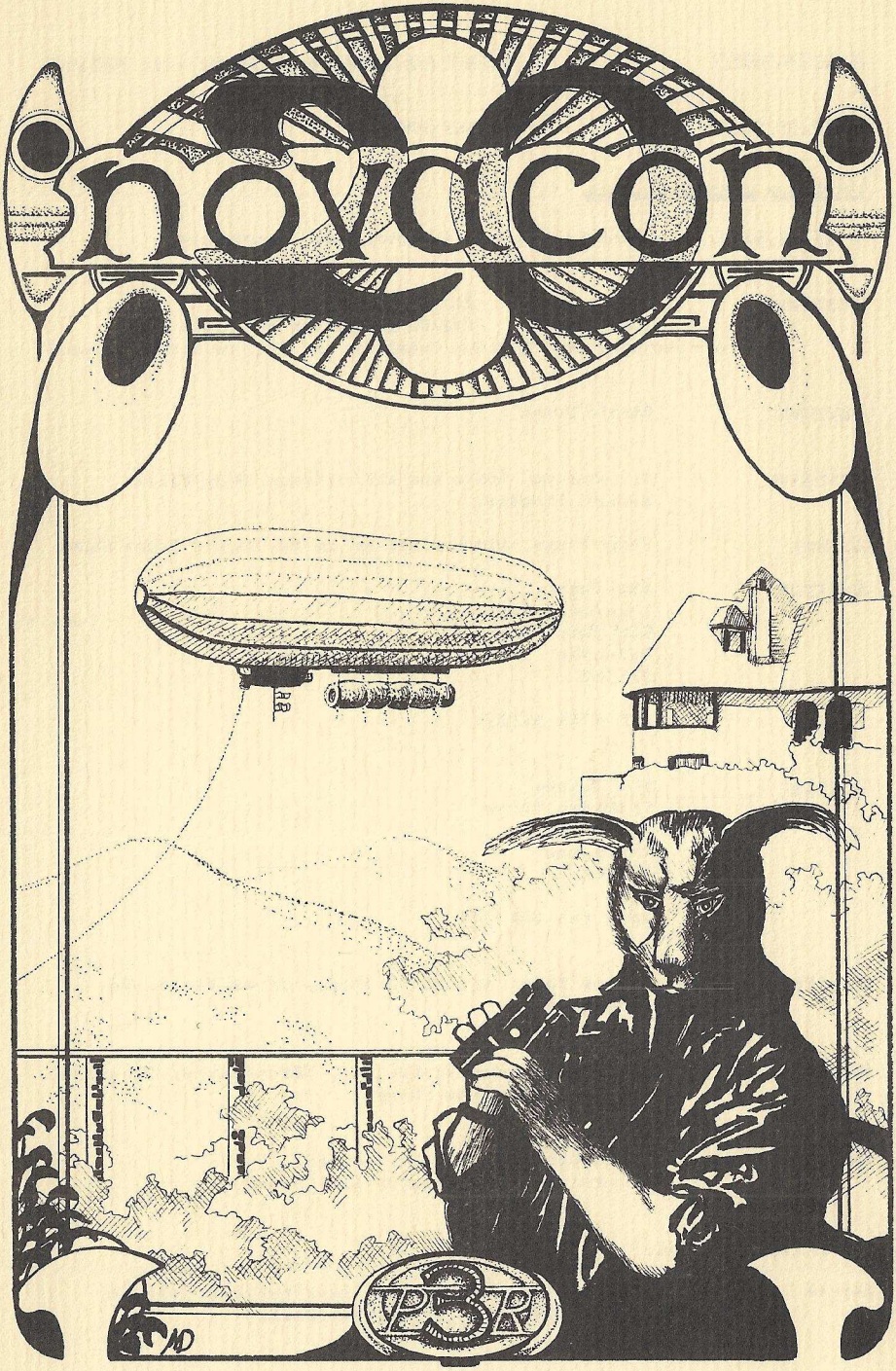
novacon
P3R

NOVACON TWENTY *FRIDAY 9th NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER*

GUEST OF HONOUR DR. *JACK COHEN*

EXCELSIOR HOTEL BIRMINGHAM

Overflow Hotel: Wheatsheaf Hotel, Coventry Road, Birmingham

Room Rates: Single Room £27.50 per night
Double/Twin £22.00 per person per night
(The rate includes full English breakfast and VAT, no hidden extras)

Chairman: Bernie Evans

Committee: Al Johnston, Steve and Alice Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage.

Creche: Vicky Evans. Address and tel as for Bernie Evans below

Bookroom: Anne Page
1 Lockwood Road
East Herringthorpe
Rotherham
S65 3RH

Tel:-0709 851353

Artshow: Bill McCabe
53 Wenman Street
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 9SP

Tel:- 021 440 5430

Snooker Tournament: Stephen Tudor, C/O Bernie Evans, or see him at the Convention.

Membership Rates: £20.00 per person on the door, (We're sorry, but postal memberships are now closed)

Book Room Rates: £15.00 per table for the weekend.
Dealers must be members of the convention.

Convention Enquiries:

Bernie Evans, 121 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands, B66 4SH.
(Telephone 021 558 0997, evenings/weekends)

CHAIRMAN'S BIT - Incorporating

THE HOTEL, FORMS, ETC..

BY BERNIE EVANS

In keeping with the newest Novacon tradition of sending everything out weeks later than anticipated, here at last is PR3.

You will find enclosed with this PR yet more membership and snooker forms, so if you've lost the last two lots, or forgotten to send them back, or want to add something else, then you can. If you want to book art show or bookroom space, or to use the creche, please PHONE William or Anne or Vicky, see the information page, in addition to sending in the form. It's ok to just send in the snooker form.

You MAY also find ANOTHER HOTEL BOOKING FORM. If you haven't sent in a form already, this will be your reminder to do so, but at this stage it would be a good idea to phone me as well.

If you HAVE already sent in a form, your confirmation will either be enclosed with this PR, or else sent under separate cover at about the same time. If you are in any doubt about the state of play, please phone me.

As before, the rooms have been allocated more or less on a first come - first served basis, with the usual exceptions such as ladies travelling alone, people with small children etc etc. And, although I had to stagger the sending out of PR2, they were sent in order of joining, which seemed the fairest possible way to do it. At the time of writing I'm not sure of the final numbers in the main hotel, but if anyone is unhappy on the day, do please tell me.

Yet another form to fill in is the NOVA AWARDS VOTING FORM. Pam Wells has written a short plea below, but I'm sure she won't mind my mentioning to people who aren't sure if they, or what they want to vote for, are eligible, don't let that put you off, ASK someone who will know, or find Pam and ask her, but do please use your vote.

NOVA AWARDS UPDATE

BY PAM WELLS

The Nova Awards voting form is enclosed in this P.R. Please use this to vote either at the convention in the box provided, or if not attending the convention post to :

Pam Wells
Nova Award Administrator
24A Beech Road
Bowes Park
London
N12 2DA.

There isn't enough space to provide lists of eligible Fanzines, Editors, Writers or Artists, but there are a lot to choose from. Full voting details are given on the voting form. Do remember to use your vote, the broader the electorate the more representative the result.

IN THE BEGINING.....

BY ROB HANSEN

It was October 1930, the month when the R101 crashed in flames taking the airship industry with it, and the month after Adolf Hitler's Nazis increased their representation in the German Reichstag from 12 to 107 to become that body's second largest party. These were distant concerns for most people, however.

In Ilford, on the eastern edge of London, the 18 year-old Walter Gillings was more concerned with trying to make contact with others who shared his obsession with a strange new form of literature known as scientifiction. Gillings had already made contact with Len Kippin, a resident of nearby Leyton, after Kippin had a letter printed in the June issue of WONDER STORIES magazine but now the two wanted to contact other enthusiasts.

In 1930, Gillings was in the throes of his first year's training as a reporter on a local newspaper, The Ilford Recorder, and in the 3rd October issue, with the sanction of an indulgent chief, he inserted a 'Letter to the Editor' he had written himself announcing the formation of the Ilford Science Literary Circle. It began:

> *"We are writing to you in an attempt to bring together in Ilford all who are in sympathy with the furtherance of scientific knowledge and who themselves take a keen interest in the progress and, particularly, the possibilities of scientific achievement."*

After giving examples of things predicted by SF writers, and paying homage to Jules Verne and H.G Wells, it continued:

> *"The writers of this letter...being anxious to popularise this type of literature (which, we would emphasise, is an admixture of imagination and scientific FACT), propose to form a club and enable others with similar literary tastes to avail themselves of the opportunity of becoming familiar with more recent examples of scientifiction."*

Pompous the letter may have been, but it produced results. On Monday 27th October 1930, at 32 Thorold Road, Ilford, the inaugural meeting of the Ilford Science Literary Circle was held. Besides Kippin, his wife and Gillings, the other five who turned up included one J.W Beck (later described by Gillings as "...a valuable member of the Circle...can always be relied upon to propound a sound argument..."), and George and Mary Dew. This latter pair were, according to Gillings "...a middle aged-aged couple who without quite realising what it was all about were willing to lend their front parlour so long as the group enlivened their Monday evenings".

The readings from contemporary works of SF given at the meetings prompted discussion and argument that in turn provided Gillings with 'copy' for the Recorder. In all a full eight of the paper's columns were filled with accounts of the Circle during the nine months and thirty-seven meetings of its existence, and some of these Recorder pieces were reprinted in the March 1931 issue of WONDER STORIES.

This got Gillings noticed by other British readers and even acted as the catalyst for the formation of another group, the Universal Science Circle in Liverpool, but it couldn't save the Ilford Circle. The Circle went into recess for the summer of 1931 and failed to reassemble again, partly because the members could think of no other way of discouraging an elderly lady who had mistaken them for a Spiritualist circle.

Gillings himself went on to greater things as editor first of TALES OF WONDER, Britain's first true SF magazine, and later of SCIENCE FANTASY. But some of us remember him most fondly for forming this country's first ever fan group, whose inaugural meeting on 27th October 1930 marked the birth of British fandom.

It's that birth that we will be celebrating at NOVACON 20, British fandom' sixtieth birthday. Enjoy the party.

PARENTS READ THIS . . . . . NOW! !

BY ALICE LAWSON

The Creche - Important information

The Creche is provided by Vicky Evans for the fourth year running. This is entirely voluntary, with the intention of helping parents (and every one else) to enjoy the convention. (Madness surely runs in that family. oops sorry Bernie)

The Creche will be open as follows:

Saturday	10.00 am to 12.30 pm
	1.30 am to 5.30 pm
Sunday	10.00 am to 12.30 pm
	1.30 am to 5.30 pm

PLEASE, remember to bring items such as aprons, favourite toys, *CLEARLY LABELLED*, nappies (DISPOSABLE PLEASE), lists of anything your child may be allergic to, or not allowed to have. Anything else YOU can think of, or any little extras you may feel disposed to provide to boost the creche facilities will be appreciated.

It would be nice if you could pop in and offer Vicky some help from time to time (not compulsory) but knowing Vicky she will just tell you go and play with the grown ups ("What grown ups?", I hear you ask).

HOW TO FIND US

MOSTLY BY TONY BERRY (ADDITIONAL REMARKS BY BERNIE EVANS)

The Excelsior Hotel is situated at the entrance to the OLD passenger airport, now the cargo airport, and is known locally as the Airport Hotel, please bear this in mind if you get a blank stare when asking directions.

Last year, I'm told, Tony's excellent directions were marred by a missing junction on the map. This year I've (more or less) copied them, BUT there's a new map provided by the hotel itself, and the route was checked by one of our car-driving committee members. Happy Travelling.....(Bernie)

By Rail

Get off at Birmingham International Station (not New Street). Get a taxi to the hotel, (about a five minute ride), OR catch the 900 bus TO Birmingham from outside the station and ask for the Excelsior Hotel, OR if you're a lot fitter than me, turn left out of the station, walk up to the A45 island, turn right and keep going for about a mile.

By Car

From the M6, leave at Junction 4 or 4A, depending on your direction of travel, and head south on the M42. Leave at Juction 3 and take the A45 towards the NEC and the station, carry on a short distance, (be prepared to turn RIGHT) until you get to a set of traffic lights. You will see the hotel on your right, the turning is signposted Freeport & Hotel.

Parking

The hotel has free parking space for about 200 cars, or there is a large NCP car park nearby, on the way to the Freeport.

By Bus from Birmingham

Catch the 900 bus fron Stephenson Street, which lies behind the Midland Hotel. The bus stops outside the Excelsior, just past the entrance, and runs every 20 minutes during the day, every 30 minutes evenings & Sundays.

By Coach

National coaches will go to Digbeth Coach Station. The 900 bus stops roughly opposite the coach station, travelling towards Coventry, see previous paragraph for details.

By Air

Get off the plane at Birmingham Airport, if you're in Birmingham Alabama send us a postcard, if you've done it right and you're in Birmingham England, get a taxi to the hotel.

Getting to the Wheatsheaf

This is the overflow hotel, and is on the A45, about a mile nearer to Birmingham than the Excelsior. The 900 bus stops outside in both directions. By car, watch out for a crossroads with lots of traffic lights on an overhead gantry. The hotel is on the corner of Coventry Road and Hobs Moat Road, on the right travelling away from Birmingham, on the left if you're travelling towards Birmingham.

M6
A452
M42
Junction 4
M6
Coventry & M1→
BIRMINGHAM
AIRPORT
A446
M42
PARKING
← Birmingham
NEC
A452
A45
A45 Coventry Rd.
Junction
6
THE
EXCELSIOR
HOTEL
TEL 021 782 8141
A41
M42

PROGRAMME BIT

BY AL JOHNSTON

At this stage you'll be glad to hear that the programme is looking good. Jack Cohen will be doing his inimitable stuff as GoH, from the opening ceremony to talks and panels. Jack's involvement includes a version of Radio 4's "Hoax", and a Buberian dialogue. Come along, if only to find out what "Buberian" means!!

Sercon items include talks on Chaos, Voyager and Scepticism, as mentioned last time. In addition we've asked Bob Shaw to repeat his Worldcon talk on corn circles. (I'm told that his Serious Scientific Talks ave very good). Don't miss it this time!!

Apart from Vernon's GCSE there will be other quizes, including a variant of "Everybody's Equal" for you all to have a go at. Panel discussions planned include one about the future of Fan Funds, and one reflecting on the 60 year history of UK Fandom, something also covered by a selection of Fan Films. More "professional" films are also on show.

All this plus Novas, Turkeys, Auctions, Parties and all you would expect at a Novacon. Be there.....enjoy.

VAMPIRES AND VIOLENCE

BY NICK MILLS

This year at Novacon we will be showing a selection of recent SF and fantasy films. We also hope to have some older and more unusual items.

Very violent future societies are depicted in two of our films. With the sequel to *ROBOCOP* lately having been released in the cinema, we offer a chance to see again the original film. We also have *THE RUNNING MAN* - the ultimate in TV game shows. See these films and judge for yourself whether they are just exciting all-action films, or whether there is something more disturbing about the casual portrayal of violence in them.

The vampires that feature in our movies are a very long way removed from the classic Transylvanian count. In the title role of *VAMP* Grace Jones hams it up splendidly as a exotic night-club performer, while *THE LOST BOYS* features an entire brat pack of vampyric teenagers.

Other presentations will include *WARLOCK* and a taste of 1930's cinema in the shape of THINGS TO COME.

THE SNOOKER TOURNAMENT

BY BERNIE EVANS

I hope there's enough space left to sneak in a reminder about this world-famous event. The rules, such as they are, are on the entry forms which you've been getting with all your PRs. So, fill in your form, send it to Stephen Tudor c/o little me at Cape Hill, have your quid ready on the day, and be ready for people to think you're "Really interesting".

THE ARTSHOW - BY BILL McCABE

This is where I start work on the show. previously Bernie had been taking names and details, but now she's passed them all on to me, and it's time to start PLANNING. By now those who have already booked space should have had their confirmation from me. If you haven't, please contact me urgently. Anyone else who wants space should apply as soon as you receive this PR. Although I should like to have some space open on the day I cannot guarantee this.

At the convention, anyone with something for the show should see me in the Art Room during Friday. The show will be in the Annexe Room between the Programme Hall and the Dealers' Room (no, we are not sharing with them - they are in the next room).

Please remember to have your Artwook clearly identifiable as YOURS, and also to indicate whether or not it is to go into the Art Auction.

THE BOOK ROOM - BY ANNE PAGE

As last year the Bookroom will be situated in the centre of the Convention, close to the Main Programme and the bar, on the ground floor of the hotel. The hotel has assured us it will be fully secure when closed. We plan to have a team of "named" gophers (volunteers please contact me, Anne Page, on 0709 851353 ASAP) available from mid-day on Friday, to assist weary dealers on arrival. We also hope to provide sustenance in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits for dealers, on arrival, to revive them before/during unloading and setting up.

Tables cost £15 for the whole weekend. Those who have already booked space will have heard from me by now. Others should send off the General Purpose Booking form at once, and also phone me. Please do this as quickly as possible to be sure of getting the tables you need.

Alice Lawson and myself will be organising the bookroom on the day, and I wil be collecting the money for your tables on Saturday. If you have any queries or suggestions please contact me at the above telephone number.

THE GCSE QUIZ - BY VERNON BROWN

Full details of how to enter the quiz will be in your Programme Book when you arrive at Novacon.

In the meantime, a couple of reminders. As you will know by now, this quiz is based on the GCSE, with differing levels of difficulty to choose from so EVERYONE can have a go. All entries automatically go into a prize draw. All those who "Pass" the "examination" will receive an attractive General Certificate of Sciencefiction Education, and the results are only known to the examiner, so you can keep your blushes hidden, or brag, depending on how you feel about the outcome.

DON'T FORGET, read the "set book", Robert A Heinlein's *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND*, and bring a blue or black pen, biro or felt-tip with you, entries in pencil cannot (indeed WILL NOT) be accepted. Enjoy the book, and good luck with the quiz.

FRIENDS OF THE MORNING SUN

BY ROB MEADES

No sloth you, eh? I know your type, up at the crack of dawn, sprint around the hotel before a light continental breakfast, then down to the programme for some intellectual debate. If so, or of like me you will have just surfaced bleary-eyed and with a strange taste in your mouth from an area of floor you don't remember getting so well acquainted with, Why not join the Friends of the Science Fiction Foundation at the ungodle (?) hour of 9.00 on Novacon's Sunday morning for their first AGM.

We will begin with a slide presentation on the Foundation itself, so if you've never been there, this is your chance to see where your money is going. Following that will be a fibance and membership report and the usual elections. Finally, we will vote in our constitution and agree a new membership renewal scheme.

Members and non-members alike are welcome, but only members may vote, (so join at our desk on Friday or Saturday and flex your democratic muscles). If you would like to nominate for the committee, or have some business you would like to discuss, please let me know at the following address before November 7th, or tell me in person by the Saturday of Novacon.

Rob Meades, Co-ordinator FoF, 75 Hecham Close, Walthamstow, London, E17 5QT

FILMS AND FOTOS

BY BERNIE EVANS

In keeping with the historical content of the Convention, we hope to put on a display of fan photos, and also to show a selection of fam films/videos.

If you have any items you think may be of interest to other fans, do please bring them along, and see Al Johnston.

We promise to look after your treasured items, but to help us please label them clearly with your name and address if possible, at least your name. And do remebmer to claim them back before you leave the Convention!!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Information page by Steve & Alice Lawson, all articles by those named in the headings, all artwork by Dave Mooring, and may we say a heartfelt thankyou to ALL contributors in each of our publications.

AND YET MORE MEMBERS

183 Gamma
184 Sue Harrison
185 Steve Mowbray
186 Ian Sorensen
187 Karen Heenan
188 Rob Hansen
189 Malcolm Reid
190 Lewis Jardine
191 Karen Jardine
192 Andy Priestly
193 Magda Plebanski
194 Pete Weston
195 Eileen Weston
196 Paul Oldroyd
197 Chris Donaldson
198 Julian Headlong
199 Jean Porter
200 Jim Porter
201 Terry Pratchett
202 John L Waggott
203 Ian Bambro
204 Jo McCahy
205 Mike Moir
206 Ben Brown
207 Mike Cheater
208 Fiona A Anderson
209 Alison Cook
210 Anne Page
211 John Richards
212 Pete Wright
213 Anne-Marie Wright
214 Mark Savage
215 Sue Mason
216 Andy Croft
217 Marika Xiaris
218 Rob Meades
219 Alice Kohler
220 Tony Rogers
221 Sarah Freakley
222 David Green
223 Dave Langford
224 Hazel Langford
225 Martin Smith
226 Eric Brown
227 John Harvey
228 Eve Harvey
229 Chris Cowan
230 Jenny Jones
231 Angus McAllister
232 Dana G Nadeau
233 Janis Nadeau
234 Phyllis Clandon
235 Roelof Goudriaan
236 Lynne Ann Morse
237 Jeff Rolfe
238 Richard Hewison
239 Andy Morris
240 Norman Shorrock
241 Phil Plumbly
242 Laura Wheatley
243 Mark Plummer
244 Kay Hancox
245 Dave Hicks
246 Steven Cain
247 Oliver Grüter
248 Norman Baxter
249 David Gemmell
250 Trish Rogers
251 Bob Tuckett
252 Paul Blair
253 Valerie Housden
254 Chris Ridd
255 U. E
256 Andrew O'Donnell
257 Elaine Coates
258 Mark Slater
259 Keith Cosslett
260 Mike Scott
261 Alison Scott
262 John Bark
263 Kate Solomon
264 Malcolm Davies
265 Gill Alderman
266 Dave Wood
267 Rog Peyton
268 Rod Milner
269 Lisanne Norman
270 Ian Francis
271 Perry Middlemiss
272 Rob Southall
273 Stuart Williams
274 Chris Cooper
275 David Julyan
276 Ian Sales
277 Lillian Edwards
278 Frances Dowd
279 Steve Hatton
280 Cat Coast
281 Robyn Mills
282 Peter Morwood
283 Diane Duane
284 Gytha North
285 Richard the Rampant
286 Lawrence O'Donnell
287 Marcus Streets
288 Jim Burns
289 Henry Balen
290 Phil Greenaway